

There is one exception—when a very young bird in a strange territory ignores the boundary rule, or when a young bird is being driven out of its parents' territory. The resident male's chase of the young bird then resembles a courting flight, being erratic, conducted through a territory and eliciting from the young bird a harsh, emotional and awkward whistle similar to that which was quoted above for an harassed female. The key to this puzzle lies in the season. Young birds are chased thus in autumn and early winter. Females are courted thus in spring and summer.

—(Mrs.) RICA ERICKSON, "Fairlea," Bolgart.

Passage of Fork-tailed Swifts.—During mildly thundery conditions on the afternoon and evening of January 22, 1950, numbers of Fork-tailed Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) came under notice at Bickley. These were first seen at about 3.30 p.m. when upwards of 30 were overhead. The birds were hawking at an altitude of 300 or 400 feet, and it was soon noticeable that they were moving away to the south. While we could still trace the flight of some of them in the distance, however, a fresh batch appeared from the north, and as these gradually moved away in the wake of the others, another lot took their place. With scarcely a break others followed along, 20 to 30 at a time, hawking far and wide, but maintaining a steady southerly drift. This went on until 4 p.m. when the passage ceased. We estimated that at least 300 birds passed over during this period. Further small detachments appeared between 6 and 7.30 p.m.

At 6.50 a.m. the following morning (January 23) Mr. George Parton, who had first drawn my attention to the birds on January 22, observed parties of swifts moving along to the southward above Kalamunda, his attention being attracted by their sharp note, which he described as rather resembling the "cheep" of a young chicken.

At much the same time on the morning of January 24 his notice was again drawn to the presence of swifts overhead by the combined noise created by the notes of many individuals. On this occasion he estimated that there were at least 500 birds, and from time to time a centre would form about which the whole flock would gather closely. Although they were at a very great height the sound of their notes came clearly down to him.

The birds were still overhead when he rode off to work on his cycle at 7.25 a.m., but when he reached his destination a few minutes later they were no longer to be seen.

—W. H. LOARING, Bickley.

Breeding Behaviour in Tree Martins stimulated by Weather Change.—In the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 1, 1948, p. 154, E. H. Sedgwick refers to the breeding of this species (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) under the verandah and roof eaves of the Hotel Morawa. A party of fifty or more birds has continued to nest at the hotel since this date. Owing to their habit of also roosting under the eaves, and the continuous accumulations of droppings, periodic unsuccessful attempts have been made to dislodge them.